

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USBERL 00631 021210Z
ACTION EUR-12

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, WB, GW
SUBJECT: NEW PREDICTIONS OF SCHUETZ'S POLITICAL DEMISE

1. BERLIN PRESS REPORTED ON FEBRUARY 27 THAT NATIONAL
SPD BUSINESS MANAGER EGON BAHR WAS LATEST IN LONG
LINE OF CRITICS OF GOVMAYOR/BERLIN SPD CHIEF KLAUS
SCHUETZ. BAHR IS SAID TO HAVE TOLD EDITORS OF
FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU THAT " APART FROM THE CSU,
THERE IS NO BETTER EXAMPLE OF POLITICAL NEPOTISM
(FILZOKRATIE) THAN THAT WHICH WE HAVE IN BERLIN."
ALTHOUGH CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT HAD MADE SIMILAR REMARK
IN PUBLIC IN BERLIN LAST YEAR, BAHR'S COMMENT WAS
VIEW BY PRESS, PARTICULARLY, SPRINGER PAPERS, AS
PERSONAL ATTACK ON SCHUETZ AND ONE THAT PRESAGED
NATIONAL SPD INTERVENTION IN BERLIN SOCIALIST AFFAIRS.

2. BERLIN ABEND OF FEBRUARY 28 PICKED UP STORY AND
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PAGE 02 USBERL 00631 021210Z

FOCUSED ON ALLEGED LONG-STANDING ENMITY BETWEEN BAHR
AND SCHUETZ STEMMING FROM TIME WHEN FORMER WAS
PRESS CHIEF IN BERLIN AND LATTER WAS SENATOR FOR
FEDERAL AFFAIRS. ABEND REPORTED THAT SCHUETZ
RECENTLY HAD SOUGHT ASSISTANCE OF FDP CHAIRMAN/FON
MINISTER GENSCHER TO STAVE OFF POSSIBLE ATTACK FROM
LIBERALS. PAPER SAID GENSCHER TELEPHONED BERLIN

MAYOR LUEDER, LOCAL FDP CHIEF, AND TOLD HIM FREE DEMOCRATS WERE NOT GOING TO BE PUT IN POSITION OF BEING SCHUETZ " KILLER" SINCE THEY DIDN'T WANT ANY BACKSTABBING TALK IN FUTURE (SIE MOECHTE NICHT MIT EINER DOLCHSTOSSLEGENDE BELASTET WERDEN).

3. MARCH 1 PRESS REPORTED SUGGESTION OF BERLIN'S ONE FDP MEMBER IN BUNDESTAG, HANS-GUENTER HOPPE (A NOTORIOUS POLITICAL GADFLY), THAT FOR THE SAKE OF SOCIAL-LIBERAL COALITION IN BERLIN " A NEW LEADERSHIP' TEAM SHOULD BE FORMED SOON -- ONE THAT WOULD NOT BE BURDENED WITH THE PAST". LUEDER CALLED THESE COMMENTS OF HOPPE'S " PERSONAL VIEWS" AND TOLD DIE WELT THAT BERLIN FDP WOULD TAKE NO INITIATIVE WITH RESPECT TO A SCHUETZ RESIGNATION NOR WOULD THEY CONTRIBUTE TO ANY SPECULATION ON SAME. MORGENPOST OF MARCH 1 CONFIDENTLY STATED THAT " THE POLITICAL DESTINY OF THE GOVERNING MAYOR OF BERLIN APPEARS SEALED" AND SUGGESTED THAT IN ADDITION TO USUAL LIST OF POSSIBLE GOVMAYOR CANDIDATES (SENATORS STOBBE, RIEBSCHLAEGER AND RISTOCK), NEW POSSIBILITY WAS STATE MINISTER IN FEDERAL CHANCELLERY, HANS JUERGEN WISCHNEWSKI. WISCHNEWSKI HAS ALSO BEEN NAMED A POSSIBLE REPLACEMENT BY OTHER PRESS REPORTS IN TAGESSPIEGEL AN ABEND OF MARCH 1.

4. ACCORDING TO CHANCELLERY CHIEF HERZ, WITH WHOM MISOFF SPOKE AFTERNOON OF MARCH 1, SCHUETZ CONFRONTED BAHR ON FEBRUARY 28 DURING MEETING OF SPD EXECUTIVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 USBERL 00631 021210Z

COMMITTEE AND LEARNED " IT WAS ALL A MISTAKE". HERZ SAID THAT BAHR EXPLAINED HE WAS ACTUALLY QUOTING SCHUETZ WHEN HE SPOKE ABOUT POLITICAL NEPOTISM IN BERLIN AND THAT BAHR SAID HE WOULD ISSUE A DENIAL THAT HE HAD INTENDED TO ATTACK SCHUETZ PERSONALLY WHICH HE DID ON MARCH 1. HERZ ADDED THAT GERMAN PROVERB SAID IT ALL: " HE WHO IS CALLED DEAD (IN THIS CASE POTENTIAL) LIVES THE LONGEST." (OR TO PARAPHRASE MARK TWAIN, NEWS OF KLAUS SCHUETZ' POTENTIAL DEMISE MAY BE EXAGGERATED.) COMMENT: WE ARE INCLINED TO AGREE WITH JOACHIM BOELKE, TAGESSPIEGEL'S POLITICAL EDITOR, WHO ARGUED IN EDITORIAL ON MARCH 1 THAT ALTHOUGH SOLUTION TO BERLIN'S LEADERSHIP PROBLEMS SHOULD NOT COME FROM OUTSIDE, IT WAS HIGH TIME LOCAL POLITICIANS GOT ON WITH SOLVING THAT PROBLEM. WE ARE COMMENTING FURTHER IN SEPTEL. END COMMENT.
GEORGE

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